GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5523
ANSWERED ON:16.05.2007
SEIZURE OF SHIP ON TERRITORIAL WATERS
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pirates have seized an Indian ship on the territorial waters of Somalia;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the efforts made by the Government to free the ship from their clutches?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) Yes, the last confirmed case was in March 2007. An Indian ship named 'MV Naimatullah' and its 14−member crew was hijacked by Somalian pirates off the Somali Coast on 31st March, 2007 for its cargo. The ship and crew were released within a week. The usual reason for such hijackings is to loot cargo carried by such ships.

(c) The Ministry of External Affairs contacted all its local Embassies/Missions in the area including in Nairobi, Dubai, Addis Ababa and Djibouti and their counterparts in Delhi, and the UN Mission for Somalia through our High Commissioner in Nairobi, on this matter and was in continuous touch with them till the Indian crew were released. Separately, earlier Ministry of External Affairs had also requested the Ministry of Shipping to put out an advisory for Indian ships to avoid Somali waters. The release of the ship and its 14-member crew was secured after concerted efforts.